

# Harding Calls Front Porch League Talks

Hughes, Taft, Root, Johnson, Borah, Hoover, Reed and Bryan Among Those to Attend

## Meetings at Marion Begin December 13 Says He Would Be Glad to Make Appropriate Talk in Senate on Monday

By Boyden R. Sparkes.

ON BOARD THE S. S. PASTORES WITH PRESIDENT-ELECT HARDING, Dec. 3 (By Radio via Charleston, S. C.)—Senator Harding's conferences with the best minds of the country to determine the kind of a league of nations America can enter, as promised in his campaign speeches, will begin in Marion on December 13. This series of conferences with brilliant Americans of every shade of political thought is expected to extend over several months. The President-elect declined to-day to name several with whom he has made early appointments, but the list is known to include Charles E. Hughes, ex-President Taft, W. J. Bryan, Hiram Johnson, Senator Borah, Oscar Underwood, Elihu Root, James A. Reed and Herbert Hoover.

This will be a new front porch campaign in Marion, a campaign designed to unite Americans, rather than merely Republicans, on a scheme for international cooperation for peace that shall not infringe American freedom of action.

The necessary conferences with parties that have subscribed to the League of Nations Covenant probably will be held through the normal diplomatic channels after Mr. Harding's inauguration. As the twin screws of the comfortable Pastores pushed her through a placid blue sea several hundred miles off the coast of South Carolina this morning Senator Harding, wearing a cap over his bushy gray brows and with a white wool sweater beneath his coat, realized his vacation was drawing to a close. Lounging against the rail of the promenade deck, one sun-browned hand in his pocket and the other playing with an unlighted stogie, he spoke of work for the first time in several weeks, and even mentioned the League of Nations, which has been almost taboo in his party.

Doesn't Want a Fuss

"There will be no news coming from Marion before December 13," said Senator Harding in reply to a question as to his immediate plans. "About this visit to the Senate, you fellows know I don't like parade or hubbub. What I should like would be to go quietly to the Senate at the opening of the short session, without demonstration and then after prayer and routine business, if some one on our side should call attention to the inaugural demonstrations to mark the end of conditions they voted against so overwhelmingly."

"Oh, I never believed that I could get away with any such scheme," said Senator Harding. Asked about the most lasting impression of the trip to Panama, Senator Harding said it had convinced him of the utter necessity of first-hand information to judge accurately Latin-American conditions. He added that he would recommend that Congress in the future send a business committee to South or Central America to work out the task on the ground, it being understood these expeditions would not be in any way funded. He said that a small joint committee of

## "World at Large" Hears Tetrazzini by Radio

Wilson at White House and Sailors Aboard Battleships "Guests" at Her Concert

Mrs. Luisa Tetrazzini, from her apartment in the Hotel McAlpin, last night sang to the "world at large."

On American battleships which are equipped with radiophones and amplifiers, the "Santitas" of the Hotel McAlpin heard the melodious notes of the famous singer. At the White House, where special instruments had been installed, the President and Mrs. Wilson and others of the White House family listened to the unusual concert and radio stations everywhere got the benefit of the odd scientific experiment.

The radio apparatus was installed in Mrs. Tetrazzini's apartments in the McAlpin and with the atmospheric conditions perfect the singer rendered the "Polka from the Mignon," a rondo from "La Sonnambula" and many other classic numbers. From somewhere—and the Tetrazzini publicity department strongly intimated that the etheral waves bore the White House voice—came a request for "Kiss Me Again" and "Somewhere a Voice is Calling." And the madame sang them and was cheerfully cheered from all points of compass.

William F. Mackay, a local radio expert, expressed the opinion that the radio concert was heard in England, Scotland and France.

All radio stations suspended traffic for the experiment.

The source of supply and demand can be traced to the Hotel McAlpin. Consult The Tribune's Help Desk for position of the Help Desk.

## Turks Massing Forces For Drive on Greeks

CONSTANTINOPLE, Dec. 3.—The Turkish Nationalists, having received from the Russian Soviets thirty airplanes, twenty armored cars and numerous motor trucks, are concentrating their forces on the Ismid and Smyrna fronts for a great offensive against the Greeks, dispatches received to-day say.

## President-Elect Wants World Law Recodified

Peace Commission to Work for Revising of International Statutes, With The Hague Tribunal as Basis

Root and President-Elect Shown Almost in Accord on Association of Nations

By Carter Field

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—A recodification of all international law is one of the things for which the Peace Commission to be named by President Harding, as disclosed in The Tribune this morning, will work.

Senator Harding had frequent discussions with his colleagues about the recodification of international law while the peace treaty was in the Senate foreign relations committee, and he is known to be just as heartily in favor of this great step toward preventing wars by averting many of the causes of international friction as any of his colleagues.

The Hague Tribunal is to be taken as the groundwork for the commission. It was said by men close to Senator Harding and who are familiar with his general ideas about bringing about peace and setting up something in the nature of an association of nations with a view to making wars less likely. Friends of Elihu Root here to-day gave a very interesting account of Mr. Root's own views as to the World Court and the League of Nations, which, if assumed to be correct, would show that Mr. Root is in far greater sympathy with Mr. Harding's ideas on an association of nations than the country was led to suppose during the treaty fight, or even during the campaign.

Root's Ideas Portrayed

These friends of Mr. Root said that an article by Charles Anderson, in the current North American Review, was really a reflection of Mr. Root's ideas in discussing the work of Mr. Root and his colleagues, as to the World Court, Mr. Anderson pointed out significantly that this commission had to work with the League of Nations in mind, and fit in with the work of the League of Nations. A clear inference is left that had the commission of which Mr. Root was a member not been circumscribed in that way it might readily have been that a much more satisfactory plan, and one which would have had no connection with the League of Nations at all, could have been worked out.

A strong friend of Mr. Root in the Senate yesterday and to-day has been calling the attention of his colleagues to this article, and it was significant that half a dozen of the Senators very close to Mr. Root had copies of the magazine containing the article on their desks to-day.

This is of interest not so much because of the rumors that Mr. Root may be President Harding's Secretary of State, as because it is practically assured, as stated in The Tribune this morning, that Mr. Root will be one of the members of the commission, as will Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Another interesting point in connection with the proposed work of this commission is that there is practically no opposition in the Senate to either a strengthening of the Hague Tribunal or a recodification of international law.

Reed Urges Recodification

Senator James A. Reed, of Missouri, who is backing the proposed Wilson League of Nations before even Hiram Johnson made up his mind to oppose it, has repeatedly said to The Tribune correspondents that he would be delighted to see a recodification of international law. Senator Reed dwelt at length on the international bickering between the belligerents and the neutral in many disputed points during the war.

There were no developments to-day as to the much discussed visit of Senator Harding to the White House on Monday. The President and Mrs. Wilson are expected to be in the White House on Monday.

Both Secretary Tumulty and Rear Admiral Grayson, the President's physician, profess complete ignorance of Mr. Wilson's decision, and it is not expected that he will make it known until just before Congress is ready to receive the message next Tuesday.

Those in close touch with the President have said that his health had improved so rapidly in the last few weeks that there was no doubt of his ability to go before Congress if he desired to do so. Mr. Wilson ceased using his wheelchair more than a week ago, and it was said that he would be able to go to the Capitol without the aid either of his wheelchair or a cane.

Senate and House leaders have sought information from the White House as to whether the President will receive, this year, the committee usually appointed at the opening day of Congress to notify him formally that the legislative body was in session and that he was to be the President, but as yet no reply has been given.

Because of the President's illness formally to a committee visit to the White House was dispensed with last December, and the President was notified by letter that Congress was in session. The annual message then was transmitted to the Senate and House by messenger.

Hotel Lorraine, Dinner, Dinner, In Grill Room, 2 to 3 p.m., 5th Ave., at 45th St.—Advt.

# Britain Will Aid Mediation In Armenia

Announces Readiness to Co-operate With U. S., Morally and Diplomatically, to Bring Peace

\$20,000,000 Needed To Supply Arms

League Expected to Pass Resolutions Cutting Article X From Covenant

By Ralph Courtney

Special Cable to The Tribune Copyright, 1920, New York Tribune Inc. GENEVA, Dec. 3.—England has intervened in the Armenian mediation and is willing to cooperate with the United States, morally and diplomatically, to bring about peace between the Armenians and the Turkish nationalists. She is not willing to undertake an independent mission in this connection.

Arthur J. Balfour to-day received a telegram from Lord Curzon covering England's reply to the invitation of the Assembly of the League of Nations. The message also raises some doubt as to whether Armenia already may not have concluded some kind of peace, which, Great Britain thinks, is worthy of consideration.

Text of Curzon's Message

Lord Curzon's telegram reads as follows: "In the telegram of November 26 from the president of the Council of the League of Nations, he observes that the President of the United States has expressed his intention of appointing a personal representative as a mediator with a view to ending the hostilities now being waged against the Armenian people. Our information is not clear as to what extent Armenia may have anticipated this action by concluding a peace with either one or both of its neighbors."

"We are not in position to accept any independent mission regarding Armenia if that is what was contemplated. But the President of the United States of America may rely on us to second his efforts in every way by the moral or diplomatic support for which he appeals."

"CURZON."

\$20,000,000 Needed for Arms

Despite President Wilson's offer to mediate, I understand from members of the Cecil committee that they are still seeking the \$20,000,000 necessary to arm Armenians under the high commissioner of the league. The suggestion has been made and discussed before the committee that the money could possibly be raised among all the nations interested in the fate of Armenia. It is understood that the committee already has received a definite proposal of half the amount needed from American sources.

Poland presented to-day to the Council of the League of Nations a demand that the territory which had been voted on by the Vilna plebiscite shall be enlarged by nearly 35,000 square kilometers over the zone originally fixed. The additional tract claimed is about 30 kilometers long and more than 100 wide and has a population of 2,000,000.

More Trouble for League

Poland also offered suggestions regarding the form of the plebiscite. It is proposed that the inhabitants be called together in great popular meetings at which the vote be taken either at these meetings or else delegates be elected at the meetings, then gather in council and vote. It also is asked that the members of Zeligowski's army be allowed to vote.

It is clearly indicated that Poland's demands will add to the difficulties of the league, and it is feared that the Polish-Lithuanian quarrel will break out as a result of these latest proposals. The Council had hoped that the two nations would agree amicably on the territory to be awarded by the Vilna plebiscite, and it was hoped that peace soon would be reestablished in northeastern Europe under the auspices of the League's army. However, it is feared that this little army of 1,800 would be lost amid the great popular assemblies Poland wishes to call.

Many Withhold Troops

Many nations which promised contingents to the league's army are now holding back. In addition to Denmark, it is now understood that Holland may refuse to allow its troops to go into a country infested with disease. There is a considerable feeling, however, that the entire league army might be kidnapped by the Bolsheviks.

Lenine and Trotsky would be delighted at the opportunity to make the league appear ridiculous.

The league to-night is holding a rehearsal.

(Continued on page seven)

## Committee Launches Fight on Primary Law

ROCHESTER, Dec. 3.—The joint legislative committee on codification of election laws, at an executive conference here to-night, decided to recommend to the Legislature that nominations for state offices filled by vote of the whole people for United States Senator and for Supreme Court justiceships be made in party conventions composed of delegates elected by the party membership.

## Allied Warning Causes Alarm Among Greeks

Protest Against Return of Ex-King Constantine to the Throne in Plebiscite Big Surprise to Cabinet

Powers Threaten Reprisals

Supreme Council Considers Withdrawal of Financial Aid and Rule of Smyrna

ATHENS, Dec. 3 (By The Associated Press).—The note sent by the British, French and Italian governments to Greece Thursday concerning the return of former King Constantine to power and the relations between them and Greece in such an event caused consternation here. It came as a complete surprise to the Greek Cabinet.

Allies Consider Reprisals

LONDON, Dec. 3 (By The Associated Press).—The Allied Supreme Council to-day publicly announced it would withdraw financial support from Greece should former King Constantine be returned in the plebiscite of Sunday. The Council also considered territorial reprisals should he be enthroned.

The Council decided that the Allied premiers should meet a fortnight hence to discuss conditions as they exist after the Greeks register their choice in the plebiscite.

The conference also resolved to make a formal protest against the issuance by the Greek government of 200,000,000 drachmas in currency, despite the opposition of the Allies.

Briefly summarized, the position of the Allies is that they want to warn the Greeks vigorously that their government must conform, to a great extent, to the wishes of the Allies, and that if the admonitions in yesterday's note and to-day's statement regarding withdrawal of financial support are ineffective the Allies are prepared to take even sterner measures, which were discussed to-day.

May Award Smyrna to Turks

As the Sevres Treaty has not been ratified, it is within the powers of the Allies to modify it, and they are keeping this fact to the fore, at least as regards Smyrna. It is known that some of those at the conference to-day expressed the belief that Smyrna would be safer, from the Allied standpoint, in Turkish hands than in the hands of the Greeks under Constantine. The wish was expressed, however, not to go so far as to threaten the Greeks, before the plebiscite, with retaking part of the territory allotted them under the Sevres Treaty.

Definite Action Not Decided

While the premiers are in accord that the sternest measures should be taken if Constantine is returned, they have not agreed on what stand to take if the Greeks choose Prince George for their king. In any event, they consider another conference soon will be necessary to decide definitely what shall be done if Constantine wins, or what steps shall be taken if the Greeks vote otherwise.

To-morrow the conference will discuss German reparations.

## "Let My People Decide," Policy of Constantine

Former King Asserts He Will Do Nothing to Influence Free Expression in the Plebiscite

Lucerne, Switzerland, Dec. 3.—Former King Constantine of Greece, after learning of the contents of the note of the Allies directed to the Greek government, made known through his chief adviser that he did not wish to say or do anything which would be in the nature of influencing or interfering with the free expression of the will of the Greek people in the plebiscite to be held Sunday.

Constantine, according to his adviser, has taken the position of "let my people decide whether they want me back, and adopted a policy of 'hands off.'"

PARIS, Dec. 3.—Rumors are current at Athens, according to a Foreign Office dispatch, that former King Constantine intends to go to Smyrna, take command of the Greek forces, particularly if he does not succeed in the throne.

The Test Period For the Railroads

The effect of higher fares and increased freight rates on the welfare of the carriers of the country will be revealed in discussions by transportation authorities in the financial pages of to-morrow's Tribune. The reports for the first two months under the new scale have just been made public.

Hotel Lorraine, Dinner, Dinner, In Grill Room, 2 to 3 p.m., 5th Ave., at 45th St.—Advt.

# Police Laxity Found Due to Men at Top

Rank and File Generally Efficient, but Heavily Handicapped by Defects of Enright's Regime

Influence Is Vital To Win Promotion

Blow Is Struck at Morale of Force by Elimination of Merit System

Since January 1 in New York City:

There have been more than 350 hold-ups, robberies and thefts. The property loss involved is more than \$3,500,000.

The unsolved murders alone total more than 100.

The defects in the police administration disclosed in the series of articles which began in The Tribune on Monday have added greatly to the burden of the uniformed patrolmen, the men who "pound the pavement" every day or night for eight hours.

The Tribune articles have shown that the machine built up by Commissioner Arthur Woods has been broken down, but they have not in any way reflected on the rank and file of the force. On the contrary, competent observers agree that the great majority of the uniformed force on the street are faithful, efficient and trustworthy.

Reporters have found that in every precinct men on midnight duty are compelled, under the Enright administration, to cover two, three and four posts. In one case in lower Manhattan one man had a post of eleven blocks to cover. This man, a former detective who had been reduced, pointed out the "ease with which thieves, by checking the length of time it took to cover the post, could break into a building, gather their loot and escape before he could get back to the starting point."

One man in an uptown residential section had seventeen blocks to cover, with a half block each side on the intersecting streets. A Brooklyn patrolman was found to have a fourteen-block post. They all agreed that they could not possibly protect the people on the posts.

Patrolmen Held Responsible

But if something does happen—if a burglary is committed, if there is a hold-up, or if a fire breaks out—and the patrolman is not on the scene, he must face trial on the charge of improperly patrolling his post and in all probability pay a fine of from one day up.

Another blow at the morale of the force is the belief that the "merit only" system carried out by Commissioner Woods counts for nothing now. Conversations with patrolmen from every section of the city indicate that the average patrolman feels that without the political influence to reach "higher-ups" in the department it is useless to expect promotion.

Under Commissioner Woods some unusual feat was rewarded either with a citation that helped considerably in an examination for promotion or with promotion to the Detective Bureau and the chances for further advancement.

The attitude of the policemen indicates that the district political leader wields something of his old-time power over them. The weak-willed patrolman falls an easy prey to the threat of the politician that failure to handle a case in a fashion dictated by the leader would bring disciplinary transfer to the suburbs or a long distance away from home.

At Police Headquarters desperate efforts have been made since the first of the Tribune stories was printed to keep New York patrolled after midnight. There appears to have been no attempt made to increase the patrolling force by reducing the number of details or special leaves of absence, but there have been issued a series of secret orders which have made the work of the patrolmen less pleasant.

"Shoo-Fly" System Returns

What appears to competent observers to be an attempt to plug up all leaks, and thereby to halt the Tribune investigation, is the recent order prohibiting patrolmen from talking to citizens about the situation even among themselves. Various precinct commanders have warned the patrolmen that to be found talking with a citizen will mean a trial on charges.

(Continued on page three)

# Builders Charged With Falsifying Their Books; Grand Jury Asked to Act

Substitution of Records to Hide Evidence of Price-Fixing Said To Be Hampering Inquiry

Two Indicted in Contempt Cases

Prices of Brick, Stone, Sand and Gravel Boosted by Towing Monopoly

Aroused by alleged evidence that vital records of the Builders Supply Bureau and the Association of Dealers in Masons Building Materials had been tampered with, extensive substitutions made, the Lockwood committee on housing yesterday ordered the documents and the circumstances surrounding their alleged falsification be placed at once before the extraordinary grand jury for action.

This development followed close on the indictment by the jury of John A. Philbrick and Joseph Penny, two wealthy members of the Builders Supply Bureau, for repeatedly refusing to answer questions on the witness stand pertaining to the bureau's affairs. They had been cited for contempt on numerous occasions. Philbrick formerly was chairman of the bureau and Penny was secretary.

The men were released by Justice McAvoy in \$1,000 bail each and were given until next Friday to make pleas and motions. The offense is a misdemeanor and carries a penalty of a year's imprisonment.

Towing Monopoly Revealed

Startling revelations were also made at yesterday's session of the committee in connection with the brick industry, the Contractors Protective Association and an alleged "towing monopoly" on the Hudson River.

It was alleged that the Cornell Towing Company had a complete monopoly on Hudson River towing and had raised its rates more than 500 per cent within the last few years.

It was testified that it costs about \$5,000 to have from twenty-five to thirty barges brought to New York from Haverstraw. These excessive towing charges, it was said, affect also other articles, such as ice and sand, and are "a great burden on all these industries."

Several brick manufacturers heard, while asserting that the brickmakers were not guilty of collusion in price-fixing, admitted that the entire output of the manufacturers supplying the New York market was handled by three agents. One of these, the Cornell Towing Company, had been formed to get uniform selling prices and that the uniform prices had resulted from a formal consultation among manufacturers.

From the minutes of the Contractors Protective Association it was learned that a committee of the organization had been formed to fix prices on the hiring of motor trucks and for dirt and rock excavation. It also showed that rates for labor and equipment to be charged by contractors for the building of houses had been fixed by Samuel J. Murphy, president of the Lockwood committee, showed that the association members made a profit of 100 per cent on the wages of rockmen and \$3 a day an ever laborer.

Search for Witnesses

The search for witnesses in connection with the inquiry disclosed that several servers have been out several days looking for John A. McCarthy, intimate friend of James J. Leader, Charles E. Murphy, the public accountant, and the man whom he was formerly associated in business.

McCarthy is a member of the Builders Supply Bureau, and was known as "No. 9" in the bureau's card system, according to the testimony of witnesses.

Another man whom the committee is trying to reach is John F. Kane, who was "No. 1" in the bureau, and Arthur D. Hammond, the public accountant, who periodically audited the books of the bureau and its membership.

Daniel J. Murphy, an assistant to Hammond, yesterday produced eight boxes of papers, files and notes, which Hammond made his reports to the bureau. He had obtained them, he said, from Hammond's wife at her home in Manhattan. He said he wired to Hammond at the Grand Hotel at Cincinnati, where he is said to be, but had received no reply.

Grand Jury Asked to Act

After battling for weeks to obtain possession of the books and papers of the Builders Supply Bureau and the Association of Dealers, in an effort to get at the methods of the alleged combinations, the committee was told by the minutes of these two organizations had been written at one time and substituted but recently.

Thoroughly aroused by the testimony, Mr. Murphy said: "We are sick and tired of this. It is most disgraceful. We have been endeavoring to investigate combinations. We have met with destroyed cards, destroyed papers, files missing, all sorts of irregularities clogging our investigation so that we cannot keep on with the main purpose of it."

I suggest to the chairman that this whole subject of destruction of the papers of the bureau and the subject of these minutes and everything connected with that subject be sent to the extraordinary grand jury and let them go on with the investigation. We cannot continue. We have not the time."

Mr. Murphy, counsel for the bureau and association, protested against Mr. Untermyer's remarks.

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threw him to the ground and forced a heavy gag between his teeth and found his hands and feet. He was then carried nearly half a block and lashed fast to the baggage car of the westbound express which was standing on the main line.

As the train left the Buffalo yards Kargner attempted to remove the gag but was unsuccessful. When the train made its first stop, at Dunkirk, forty miles west of this city, he was unable to attract the attention of railway officials. At Westfield he again tried to obtain assistance and failed. When he reached Erie he succeeded in removing the gag, but was unable to get help.

He recovered his voice. At Ashtabula he attracted the attention of a baggage master and was removed to a waiting room. He was brought to Buffalo this morning.

Kargner's face was badly scratched and his clothing torn by flying cinders. He was otherwise uninjured.

After taking his money he said they

Bandits Rob, Gag and Lash Victim to an Express Train

Special Dispatch to The Tribune

BUFFALO, Dec. 3.—After being held up and robbed of \$112 in the New York Central Railroad yards at Michigan Avenue here shortly before 8 o'clock Thursday night, R. G. Kargner, a timekeeper for the Dunlop Tire Company, was bound hand and foot, gagged and lashed to the guard rail of a westbound New York Central express train. He was found shortly after midnight this morning, still bound to the train in Ashtabula, Ohio, more than 100 miles from Buffalo. Part of the ride was made through a driving rain in a temperature but a few degrees above the freezing point.

Kargner, whose home is in Cleveland, told railroad detectives who took him from the train that two men attacked him with revolvers as he was walking across Michigan Avenue. After taking his money he said they